

DADAAB SPATIAL PROFILE

June 2021

Google Earth

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Project Supervision Laura Petrella

Project Coordination: Jonathan Weaver

Contributors HQ: Helen Yu, Justin Paul Ware, Sammy Muinde, Martin Murithi, Lucy Donnelly, Ting Zhang, Risper Talai, Myriam Azar

Field Support: Winston Njuguna

HS Number:

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PO Box 30030, GPO
Nairobi, 00100
Kenya

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County Headquarters
Garissa Town
Kenya

With the kind collaboration of the
Garissa County Government



Dunhill Towers 19th Floor
115 Waiyaki Way,
Nairobi,
Kenya

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Abbreviations

ASAL - Arid and Semi Arid Lands
CIDP - County Integrated Development Plan
CRRF - Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework
GCP - Gross County Product
GCR - Global Compact on Refugees
GISEDP - Garissa Integrated Socio Economic Development Plan
GoK - Government of Kenya
GNI - Gross National Income
HH - Household
HLP - Housing Land and Property
ISUD - Integrated Sustainable Urban Development
KNBS - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
LAPSSET - Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport
MCA - Member of County Assembly
NCAP - National Climate Adaptation Plan
NCCRS - National Climate Change Response Strategy
OSR - Own Source Revenue
PoC - People of Concern
RAS - Refugee Affairs Secretariat
SDG - Sustainable Development Goal
SWOT - Strength Weakness Opportunity Threat
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WASH - Water Sanitation and Hygiene

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Foreword

In March 2021, the Government of Kenya announced that all refugee camps in Kenya are to be closed, with a road map developed in association with UNHCR aiming for closure by June 2022. This includes both the refugee camps that make up the Dadaab complex in Garissa County as well as Kakuma and Kalobeyei in Turkana, in the far north west. As this spatial profile was in the process of being finalised at the time of the announcement and having been prepared over the course of 2020 and early 2021 the perspective of the study aimed at understanding the historical trends that led to form the environment that Dadaab exists within today, as well as a view to the future. The future considered within this profile is broadly outlined in some schematic scenarios which consider options for the camps remaining and as well as gradual closure.

Following the current announcement, the future of the area looks increasingly uncertain, with a substantial amount of ambiguity remaining regarding the details within the roadmap to closure. Questions surrounding what the future holds for the hosting communities who live in the area and rely on the infrastructure and services as well as the economic vibrancy provided by the camps are yet to be answered. As of June 2021, UNHCR and RAS are preparing to undertake a refugee verification exercise and intention survey for all current refugees to understand their intention and willingness to voluntarily repatriate to their country of origin, or to a third country. The results of this survey will not be known until late 2021 but it is anticipated that a number of refugees will need to remain in Kenya under the protection of UNHCR. Where they will reside is also a question yet to be answered.

In any case, in light of this announcement, consideration must be given to a potential drastic reduction in refugee presence in Garissa County over the coming years. This will have immediate effects upon the host community in

In light of these changing circumstances however, UN-Habitat advocates that the role of this study remains unchanged. The spatial profile provides a solid understanding of the current context of the area and provides a useful baseline for the future planning of the Dadaab area for whoever remains living in the area. The document can still assist decision-makers in prioritizing funding and implementation modalities on an informed basis. It is recommended that this study is used to understand some implications for the future of the area based on the scenarios set out in the last chapter and that humanitarian and development agencies, as well as the County government who have supported the formulation of this document consider this information well.

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